



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO

BOARD OF LIBRARY COMMISSIONERS

Members

Katie Sullivan, Chair

Susan Atkins • Salvatore Giametta • Matthew Hervey • Abby Silverman Weiss • Sarah White • Alan Ziegaus

MINUTES

BOARD OF LIBRARY COMMISSIONERS

SAN DIEGO PUBLIC LIBRARY

Wednesday, August 04, 2010

ATTENDANCE

Commissioners:

Present: Katie Sullivan, Susan Atkins, Matthew Hervey, Abby Silverman Weiss, Sarah White, Alan Ziegaus

Absent: Salvatore Giametta

Staff: Deborah Barrow, Library Director; Christine Siegel, Deputy Director; Kathleen Wheatley, Deputy Director; Jay Hill, Chief Executive Officer, San Diego Public Library Foundation; Darren Greenhalgh, Deputy Director, Engineering & Capital Projects; Carol Tellez, Executive Secretary

Public: Brenda Mason, John McAllister

CALL TO ORDER

Meeting was called to order at 12:32 p.m. in the Commission Room of the Central Library.

CHAIR'S UPDATE: Katie Sullivan

The new Central Library ground breaking ceremony was a huge success. Commissioner Sullivan thanked City and Library staff, Foundation members and staff, and everyone else involved for the great job they did in organizing this wonderful event.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The June 2010 minutes were approved unanimously.

REQUESTS FOR CONTINUANCE

None.

NON-AGENDA PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

REPORT FROM THE FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY: John McAllister

The Friends Annual meeting is Saturday, September 11, 2010 at the Pt. Loma/Hervey Branch Library. The Friends are excited that the new Central Library project is moving forward.

SERRA SYSTEM ADVISORY BOARD: Brenda Mason

The 2010 Summer Reading program is finishing up throughout the Serra System. Fourteen Serra library staff members have completed the first year of the *Librarians for Diverse Communities* grant program. Fifteen staff members will be starting year two of this program on September 1. Students are eligible to receive up to \$5,400 of financial aid in the form of fee reimbursement. Each student is matched up with a librarian mentor and meetings are held once a month. In the first year of this program, four of the mentors were from the San Diego Public Library.

AGENDA ITEMS

10.a Library System Update: Darren Greenhalgh

Mr. Greenhalgh gave a detailed update on the New Central Library. Arrangements are being made for funds from CCDC, the State Library, and the School District to be placed into the project's account. Turner Construction began work on August 2. A webcam, funded by Turner Construction, will be installed near the construction site so viewers can watch the project's progress.

Signage for the construction site was discussed by the commissioners.

Ms. Barrow thanked Commissioner Sullivan for her hard work and dedication in planning the ground breaking ceremony for the new Central Library.

FOUNDATION UPDATE: Jay Hill

Mr. Hill acknowledged Commissioner Sullivan for her efforts in planning and coordinating the ground breaking ceremony for the new Central Library.

The Carnegie Tea held last May was very successful, with three new members added. Mr. Hill thanked Commissioner Hervey for hosting the event.

The Foundation and the Friends of the Library reached the \$1 million match for the Matching Funds Program for the seventh year in a row.

A link has been added to the Foundation's website that gives updates on the progress of the new Central Library project.

Terry Collings has been hired by the Foundation as a consultant to help with fundraising for the new Central Library project.

Mr. Hill was asked to give the commissioners an overview of the fundraising plan for the new Central Library. He agreed to give a presentation at a future commission meeting.

DIRECTOR'S UPDATE: Deborah Barrow

- Voting for the next One Book, One San Diego has been extended to August 18. Patrons can vote for one of three books: *The Gangster We Are All Looking For* by le thi diem thuy; *Into the Beautiful North* by Luis Alberto Urrea; and *Let the Great World Spin* by Colum McCann.
- A flyer was distributed describing upcoming programs at the City Heights Performance Annex. These programs were funded in part by Price Charities. A flyer was also distributed on upcoming concerts at the North University Community Library.
- Ms. Barrow shared with the commissioners an interesting article from 1959, *Electronic Home Library*. The article talked about innovative ideas for the future, such as a “television recorder” which could capture both picture and sound on tape.
- Ms. Barrow reported on a volunteer opportunity for the library to participate in UCSD's *Volunteer50: Chancellor's Call to Service* volunteer program. The library has submitted a proposal to partner with UCSD for monthly, themed talks.
- In October the library also proposes to participate in *Volunteer San Diego's Serve-a-thon* (formerly Hands on San Diego). The Library hopes to use these volunteers to help inventory library materials, and help prepare for the move to the new Central Library.
- As part of the Business Process Reengineering (BPR) program, the City is considering consolidating its delivery service. The feasibility of combining the Library's delivery service with other departments such as Fire and Police is being explored. Some of the issues being discussed are location of services and turnaround time of deliveries. Approximately 6 FTE (drivers) could be impacted from the Library's budget.
- A flyer describing Floating Collections was distributed. Ms. Barrow gave a detailed explanation of the floating collections process. In a floating collection items don't have a permanent home, but move from library to library as they are used by patrons from that library. Many other libraries are now using this concept. San Diego Public Library (SDPL) is implementing a pilot program to see how this would work with its new DVDs. After the appropriate computer code has been developed, the pilot program will be expanded to include all DVDs. The pilot program will then be evaluated to see if it is feasible to apply to other parts of the SDPL collection.
- Council approved the Library's materials bid on July 27. Ten vendors were approved and the Library could save up to 40% on some types of materials.
- Supervising Librarian Sharon Stevelman is retiring soon. A request to fill has been approved for her position. Supervising Librarian Doug Spence recently resigned, and the request to fill for his position has just been submitted.
- The *Summer Reading Program* ends on August 15. Padres tickets and the chance to win an iPad have been a huge hit.

- Contracts for performers and vendors is a City requirement and a process for the Library has been developed. Performers and vendors are required to have insurance, a business license, and a signed contract. So far more than 90% of the vendors/performers for the Library have complied.
- E-books and Kindle have been on sale at lower prices for the past few months, and were selling on Amazon at a rate of 3-1 over hard copies of books. This trend may continue for awhile as a newer, lower priced Kindle is being introduced.
- On June 30 Ms. Barrow and Mel Katz were on the KPBS radio show *These Days* talking about the library.
- Preliminary statistics indicate a slight increase in circulation, making this another record year with 7.7 million items circulated versus 7.6 million. Visits were 6.3 million versus 6.6 million last year. This change could be attributed to the reduction in hours that occurred in the last quarter of the year.
- Mark Elliot Lugo received the Platinum Pencil Award from West Coast Drawing for presenting some of the best art in the San Diego area.
- Ms. Barrow thanked library staff for creating and exhibiting a booth at Comic-Con. It was a huge hit and the conference was excited to have the library connection, supporting literacy among youth.

AGENDA ITEMS (cont)

10.b Budget Update: Deborah Barrow

Commissioner Sullivan stated that a letter was being sent to the Mayor and Council emphasizing the importance of the Library's Matching Funds Program and reporting on the success of securing over \$1 million in Matching Funds for the seventh consecutive year.

Ms. Barrow stated that the FY 2011 budget was passed by Council. The Library's budget is:

\$34 million
358 FTE
\$924,000 Matching Funds Program
\$1.6 million Book Budget

Ms. Barrow also noted that \$1.8 million in staff savings is budgeted based on December 2009 staffing levels.

Ms. Barrow congratulated staff on being right on target with the Library's budget last fiscal year. It is hoped the same can be done this year. A hiring freeze is in effect and requests are considered on a case by case basis. Departments are also being asked to consider a 5% savings in supplies and contracts. If implemented, the Library's budget could be impacted by as much as \$230,000.

A sales tax initiative is being considered by Council. The revenue generated by this potential sales tax would be used for City services. Ms. Barrow was asked if someone from the IBA or Mayor's office could brief the commissioners on this initiative. Ms. Barrow will follow up on the request.

10.c Legislative Update

None.

OTHER BUSINESS

Commissioner Hervey brought a copy of an article in the UT that featured Henry Roosevelt Brown. Mr. Brown distributed free books to children at his annual Children's Book Party.

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Sullivan adjourned the meeting at 2:02 p.m.

Deborah L. Barrow

DEBORAH L. BARROW
Library Director

CT